TALES OF BALARAMA

Balarama was not only Krishna's brother, he was his right-hand man. Together they made quite a team. Balarama's amazing strength and courage made dangerous demons like Dhenukasura and Pralamba look like weaklings. He even tamed the Yamuna river which had meandered away from Vrindavan and brought it back to the people who needed it.

OTHER ACK EPICS & MYTHOLOGY:

KRISHNA

[illegible]

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EPICS & MYTHOLOGY

TALES OF BALARAMA

VALIANT BROTHER OF KRISHNA

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BALARAMA

RAMA AND KRISHNA SPENT THEIR CHILDHOOD IN GOKUL.

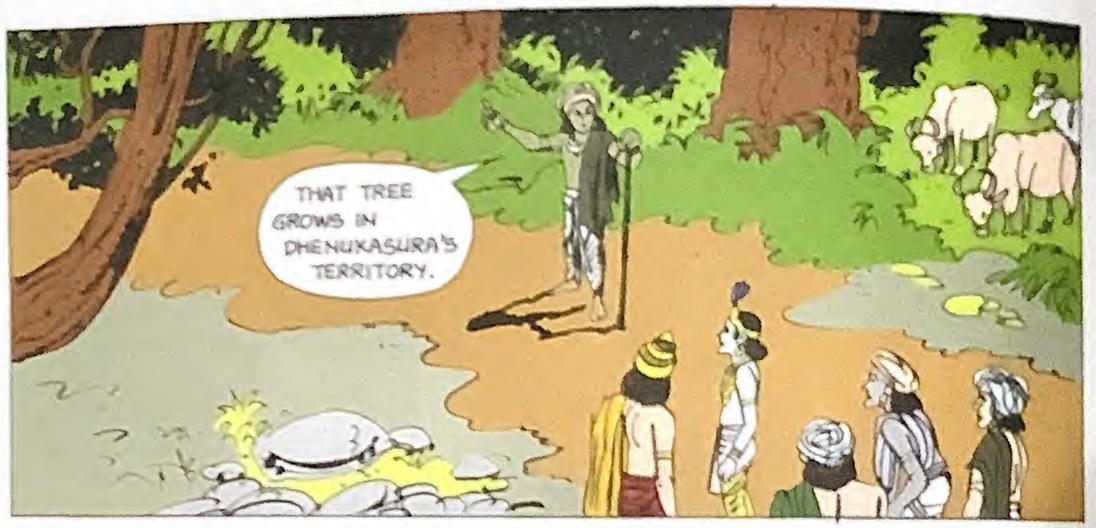
EVERY DAY, ALONG WITH THE OTHER COWHERDS OF THE VILLAGE, THE TWO BROTHERS WOULD TAKE THEIR CATTLE OUT TO THE FOREST TO GRAZE.

ONE MORNING—

RAMA! KRISHNA! LOOK! BERRIES! HUNDREDS OF THEM!

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S HAVE SOME.

WAIT, RAMA!


THAT TREE GROWS IN DHENUKASURA'S TERRITORY.

NO CATTLE WHICH ENTER THAT PLACE RETURN HOME ALIVE.

FOR THAT MATTER, NOR DOES A CONHERD.

WELL, KRISHNA ?

DO YOU WANT TO EAT THOSE BERRIES ?

WE DO ! WE DO !

YOUR QUESTION HAS BEEN ANSWERED, RAMA.

RAMA STRODE UP TO THE BERRY TREE...

...AND SHOOK IT WITH ALL HIS MIGHT.

PLOP

WHAT'S THAT?

THE SOUND OF FALLING BERRIES!

ASSUMING THE FORM OF A WILD ASS, DHENUKA SHOT OUT OF HIS CAVE.

IT'S DHENUKA-SURA!

RUN!

RUN!

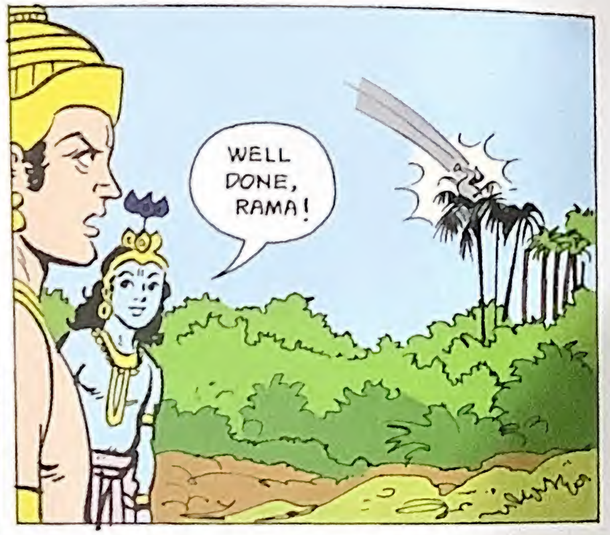
RAMA AND KRISHNA HOWEVER, STOOD WHERE THEY WERE AND WENT ON SHAKING THE TREE.

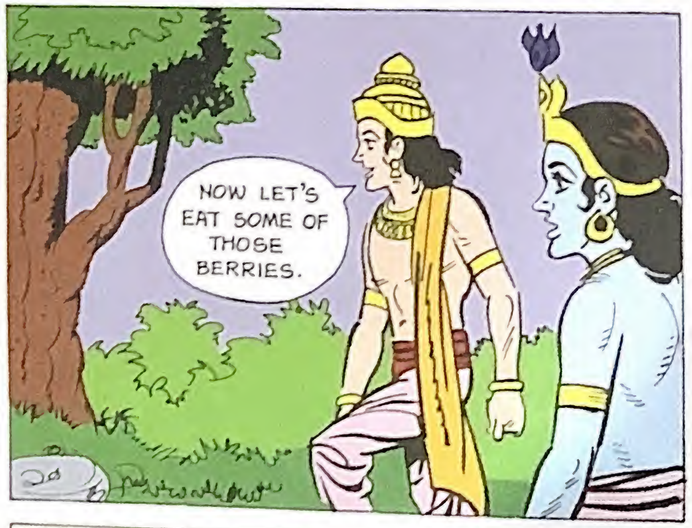
SUDDENLY —

THE NEXT MOMENT RAMA FOUND HIMSELF UP IN THE AIR.

EVEN AS HE LANDED, DHENUKA LASHED OUT AGAIN...

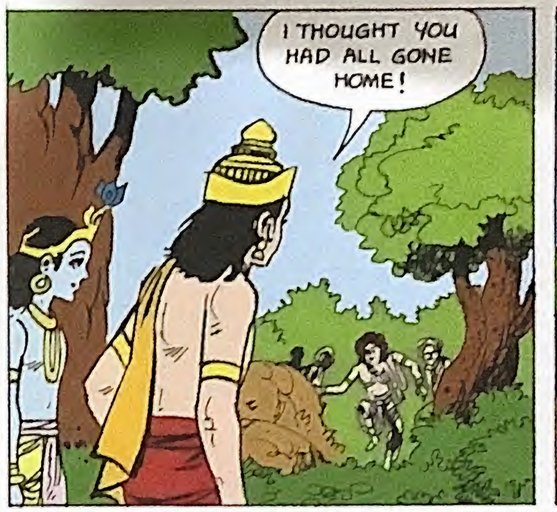
...BUT THIS TIME RAMA WAS READY.


WELL DONE, RAMA!


NOW LET'S EAT SOME OF THOSE BERRIES.

WHERE ARE THE BOYS?

THE BOYS SLOWLY CREPT OUT FROM BEHIND THE BUSHES.


I THOUGHT YOU HAD ALL GONE HOME!

HOW COULD WE? LEAVING...

... LEAVING THESE LUSCIOUS BERRIES BEHIND?

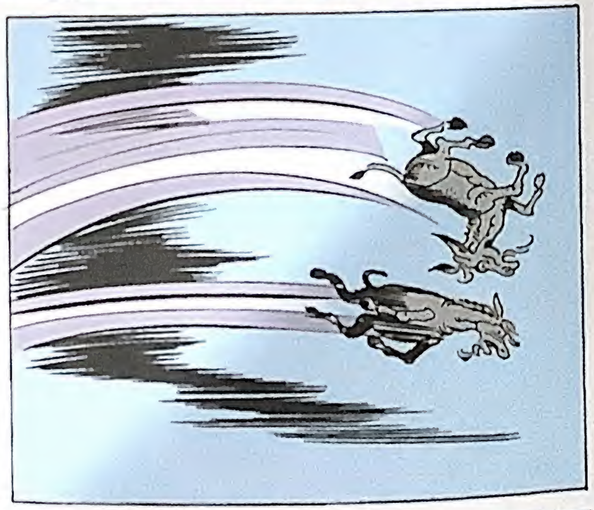
JUST THEN —
THUMP
THUMP

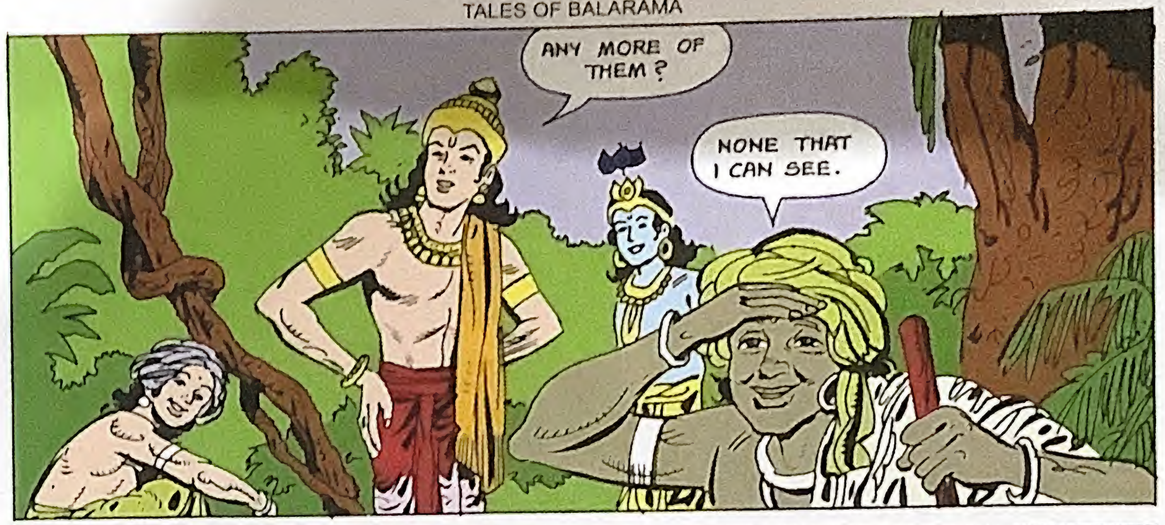
WHAT'S THAT?

THEY'RE DHENUKA'S HORDES!

DON'T PANIC. THEY HAVE COME IN SEARCH OF THEIR MASTER.

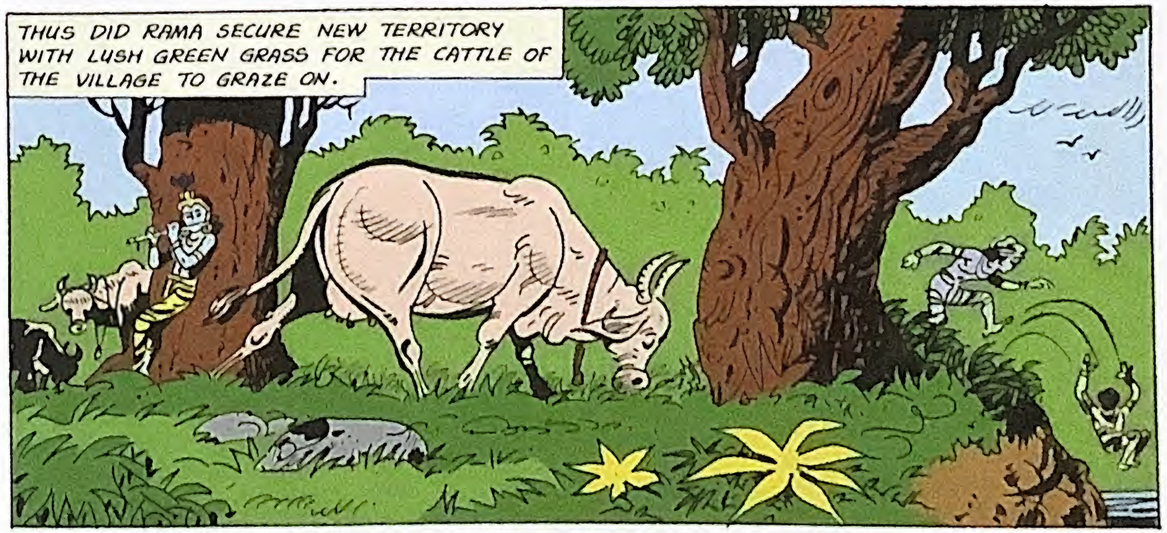
WE WILL HAVE TO HELP THEM TO FIND HIM.




ANY MORE OF THEM?
NONE THAT I CAN SEE.

GOOD! NOW WE CAN EAT AS MANY BERRIES AS WE WANT.

AND OUR CATTLE TOO ARE SAFE, RAMA.


THUS DID RAMA SECURE NEW TERRITORY WITH LUSH GREEN GRASS FOR THE CATTLE OF THE VILLAGE TO GRAZE ON.

AS THE CATTLE GRAZED, THE COWHERDS WRESTLED AND PLAYED GAMES TO WHILE THEIR TIME AWAY.
ONE DAY A STRANGER CAME UP TO THEM.
MAY I JOIN YOU, FRIENDS?
ONLY IF YOU CAN TEACH US A NEW GAME.
HAVE YOU EVER RUN A RACE IN PAIRS, JUMPING WITH BOTH FEET AT ONCE LIKE DEER?
NO. BUT IT SHOULD BE FUN.
WHAT DOES THE WINNER GET?
A JOY RIDE.
THE LOSER WILL HAVE TO CARRY HIM BACK TO THE STARTING-POINT.
LET'S BEGIN. NOW!

KRISHNA, YOU RACE WITH SHRIDAMA. I'LL TAKE ON ...
PRALAMBA! THAT'S WHAT I'M CALLED.
THE RACE BEGAN.
HURRAY!
HURRAY!

I'VE WON!
SO HAVE I!
NOW CARRY US BACK TO THE STARTING-POINT.

HEY! WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?

I AM TAKING YOU HOME...

...TO MY HOME IN THE ASURA KINGDOM. YOU WILL MAKE A GOOD SLAVE.
PRALAMBA WAS AN ASURA WHO HAD COME TO THE FOREST IN THE GUISE OF A COWHERD.

YOU ARE STRONG, HEALTHY... AND... AND...

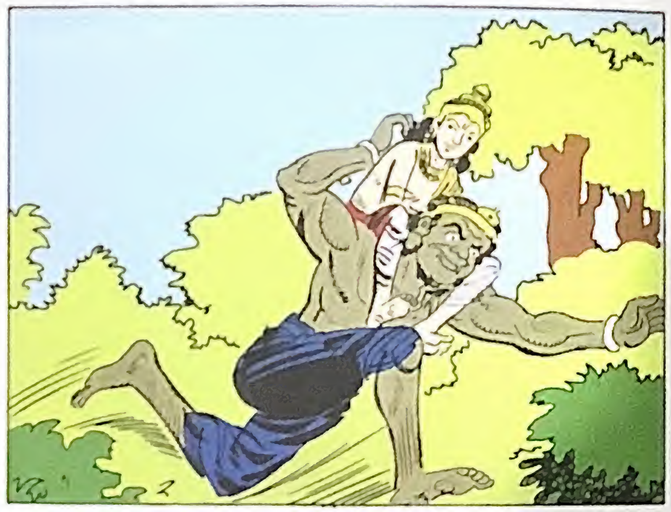
...HEAVY. I'D BETTER ASSUME MY TRUE FORM.

YOU SHOULD BID YOUR FRIENDS GOOD-BYE, FOR YOU WILL NEVER SEE THEM AGAIN.
NEVER? OH! WELL...

KRISHNA! KRISHNA!

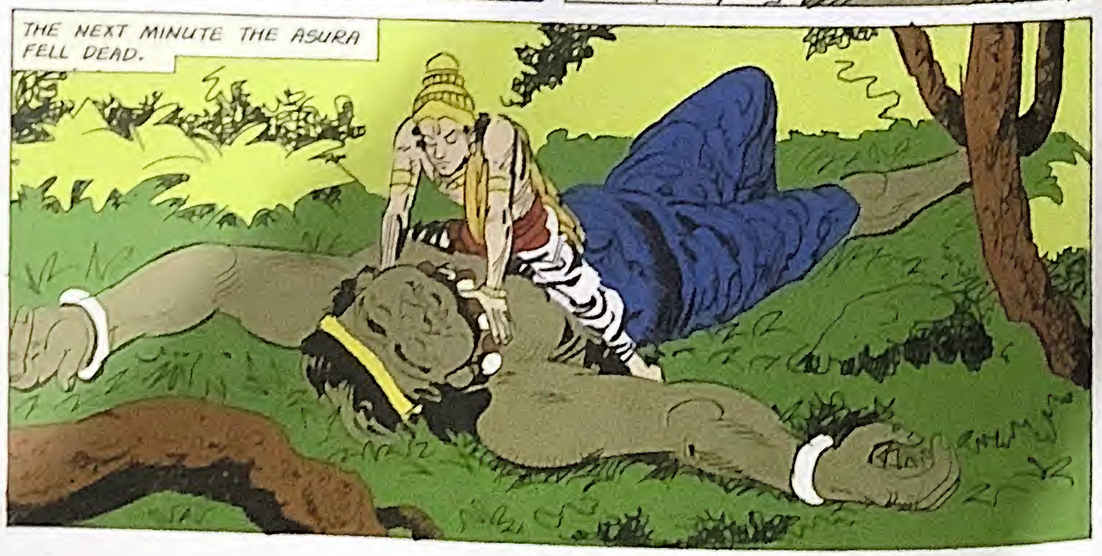
I AM BEING CARRIED AWAY ...BY AN ASURA...

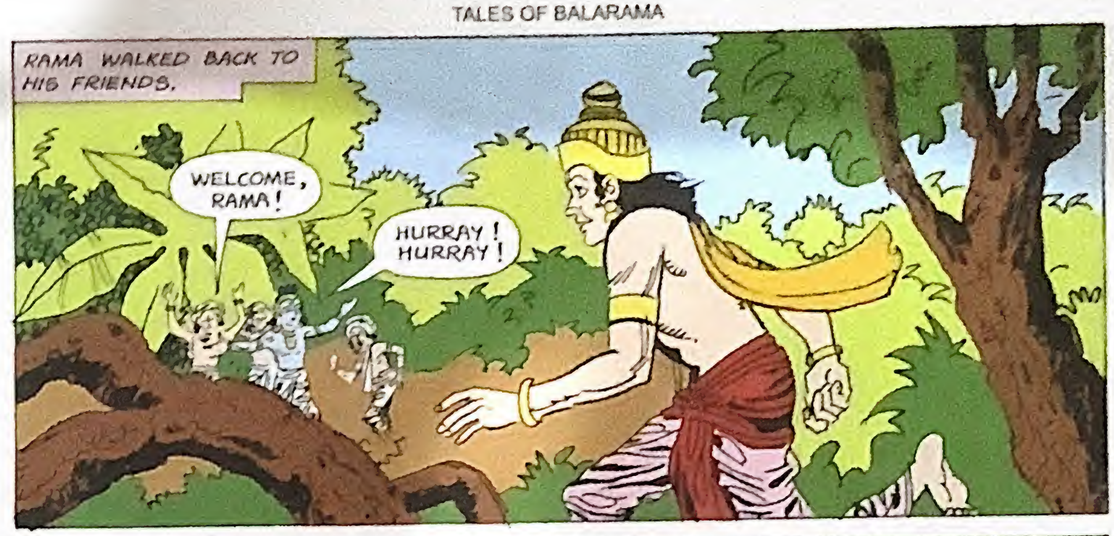
THE POOR ASURA!

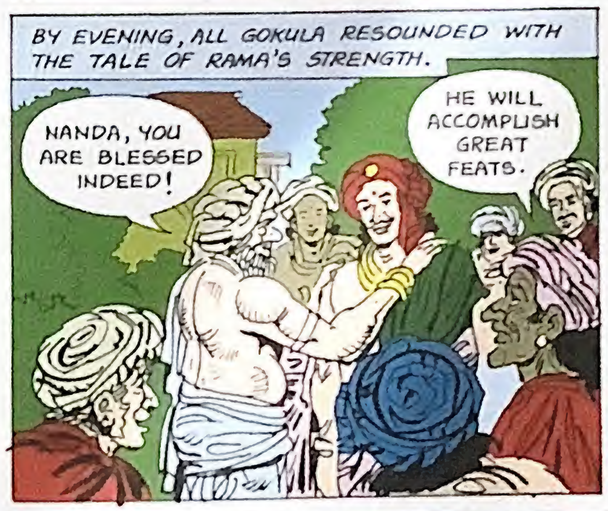


AS HE RAN ON, THE ASURA SUDDENLY FELT RAMA'S LEGS TIGHTENING THEIR HOLD. RAMA WAS STRANGLING HIM!

HEY! RAMA ...LET GO... AAAAH...

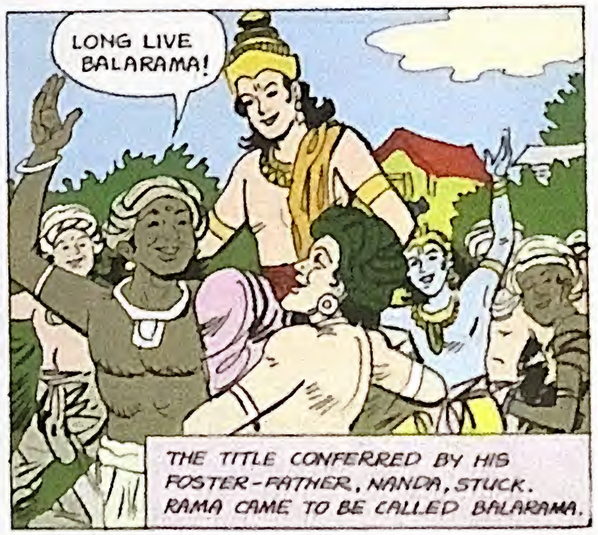

THE NEXT MINUTE THE ASURA FELL DEAD.


RAMA WALKED BACK TO HIS FRIENDS.
WELCOME, RAMA!
HURRAY! HURRAY!


BY EVENING, ALL GOKULA RESOUNDED WITH THE TALE OF RAMA'S STRENGTH.
NANDA, YOU ARE BLESSED INDEED!
HE WILL ACCOMPLISH GREAT FEATS.

THERE IS NONE WHO CAN MATCH YOUR MIGHT, RAMA...

...THEREFORE YOU SHALL HENCE-FORTH BE CALLED BALARAMA.


LONG LIVE BALARAMA!
THE TITLE CONFERRED BY HIS FOSTER-FATHER, NANDA, STUCK. RAMA CAME TO BE CALLED BALARAMA.

BALARAMA TAMES YAMUNA

BALARAMA AND KRISHNA GREW UP TO BE EXCEPTIONALLY VALIANT YOUNG MEN. THEY SLEW THE MIGHTY KING, KAMSA, OF MATHURA...

...FREED THEIR PARENTS FROM KAMSA'S PRISON...

...AND REINSTATED THEIR MATERNAL GRANDFATHER, UGRASENA, ON THE THRONE.

WHEN BALARAMA RETURNED HOME ON A VISIT —

LOOK! IT'S BALARAMA!

BALARAMA!

WELCOME, BALARAMA!

HOW GOOD IT IS TO BE BACK HERE WITH YOU!

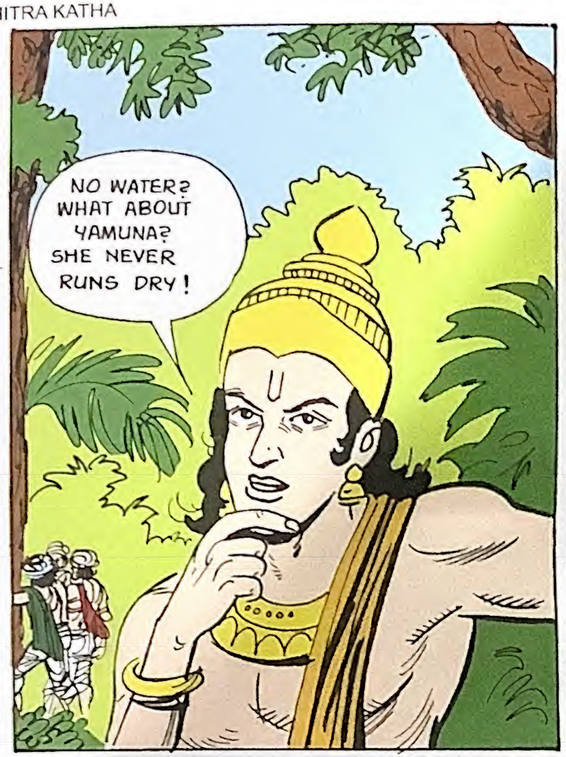
LET'S SPEND THE DAY IN THE FOREST, AS WE USED TO.

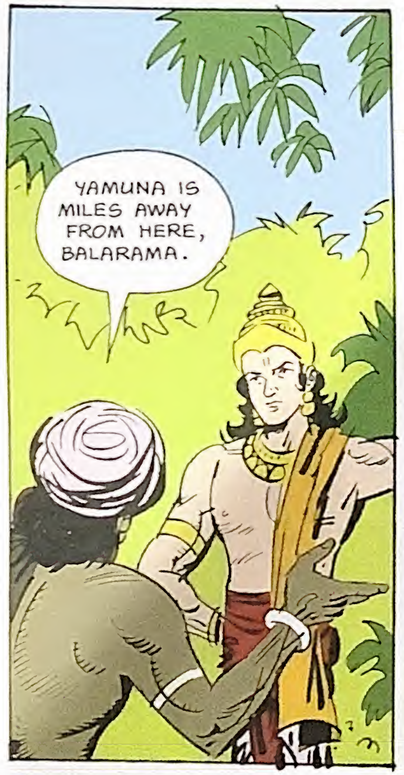
AH, THE COOL, PURE AIR OF THE FOREST! THE CHIRPING OF BIRDS... THE RUSTLING OF LEAVES...

...HOW SOOTHING, HOW PLEASANT, HOW RESTFUL IT IS HERE!

ALL VERY TRUE, BALARAMA. BUT THE FOREST HAS ITS PROBLEMS TOO.

PROBLEMS ? WHAT PROBLEM CAN THERE BE NOW ?
THERE IS NO WATER.


NO WATER? WHAT ABOUT YAMUNA? SHE NEVER RUNS DRY!


YAMUNA IS MILES AWAY FROM HERE, BALARAMA.

THEN BRING HER HERE.
HOW ? BY REQUESTING HER TO COME ?

YOU SPEAK AS IF WE ONLY HAVE TO WISH IT AND SHE'LL COME RUSHING TO US.

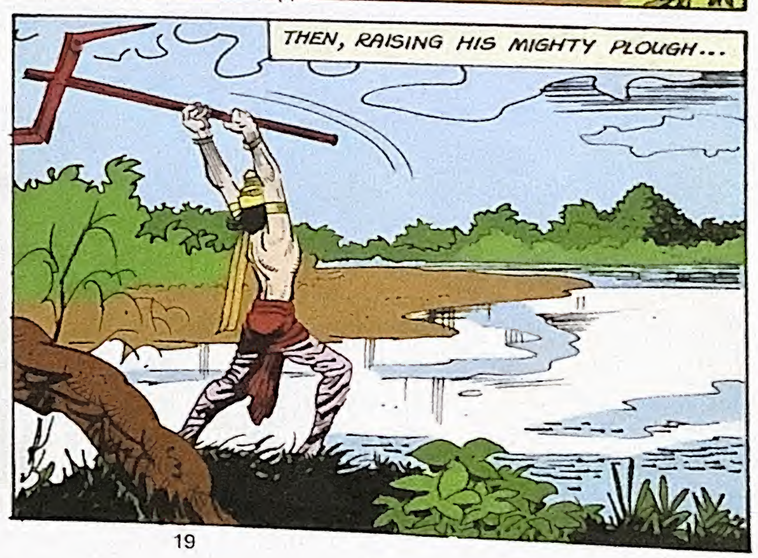
OF COURSE, SHE WON'T. WE'LL HAVE TO LEAD HER HERE.
HOW?

I'LL SHOW YOU.

BALARAMA TOOK HIS PLOUGH...

...SWUNG IT ON HIS SHOULDER AND WALKED DOWN TO THE BANKS OF THE YAMUNA.

THERE HE FIRST SALUTED THE RIVER.


THEN, RAISING HIS MIGHTY PLOUGH...

...HE BROUGHT IT DOWN WITH A THUD...

...AND BEGAN DRAGGING IT BEHIND HIM.

THROUGH THE FURROW DUG BY THE PLOUGH, THE RIVER ...

...RUSHED AFTER HIM...

...RIGHT UP TO THE FOREST.

THERE! YAMUNA HAS COME TO YOU!

BALARAMA WEDS REVATI

ONCE TWO STRANGERS ARRIVED AT DWARAKA WHERE KRISHNA AND BALARAMA NOW LIVED.

LOOK, REVATI! HOW EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED!

MEN AND WOMEN HAVE BECOME SO SMALL...

...AND SO WEAK! TEN MEN LIFTING THAT TINY LOG!

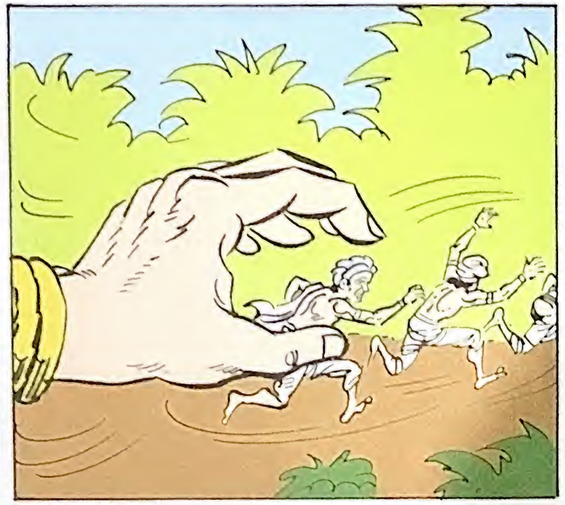
LORD BRAHMA HAD WARNED US ABOUT THIS, FATHER.

HM-M-M... YES... HE HAD. WELL, MY CHILD, LET'S FIND THE PALACE.

BUT, FATHER, IS THIS OUR CAPITAL?

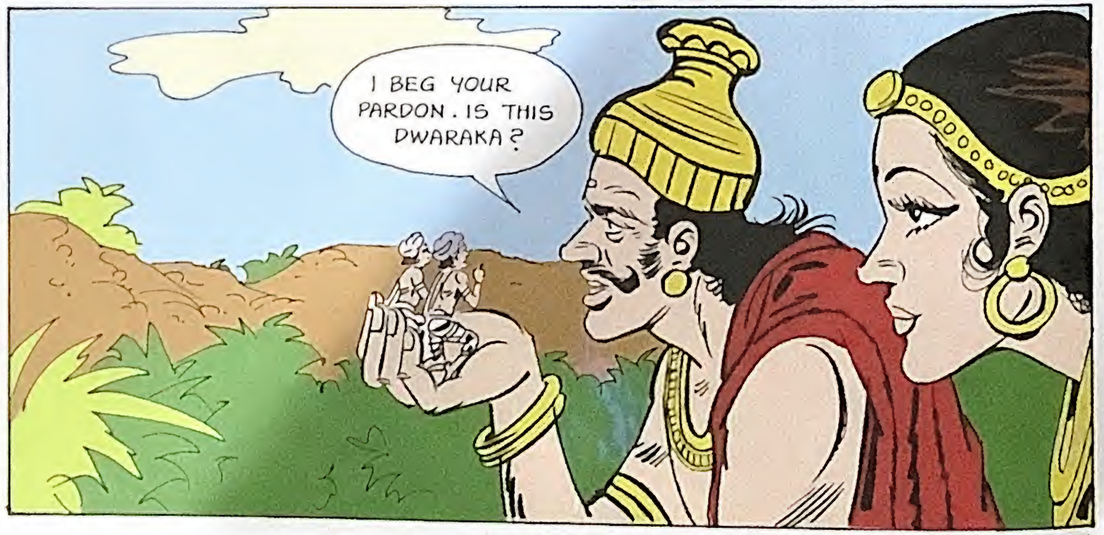
LET'S ASK THOSE MEN.

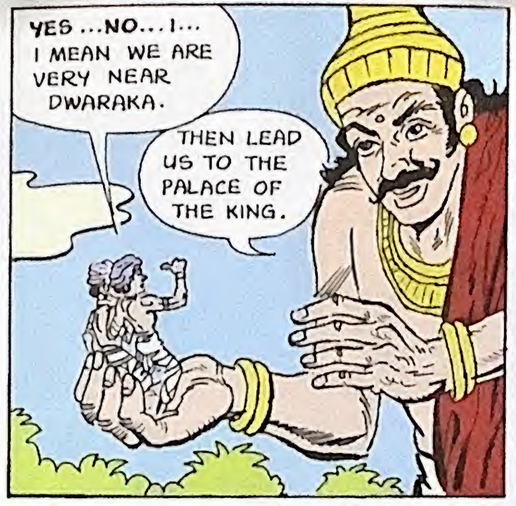
BUT —
GIANTS ! RUN !
WAIT ! DON'T RUN AWAY !

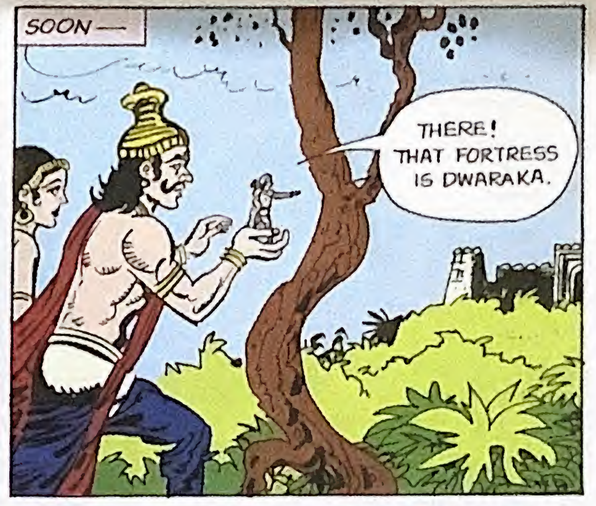


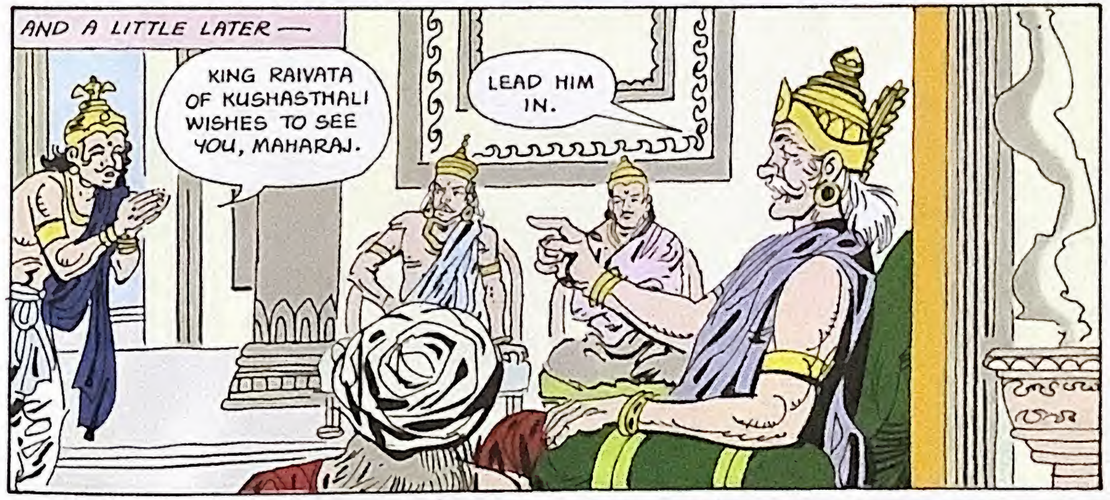
DON'T BE AFRAID. WE WON'T HARM YOU. WE ARE FRIENDS.
F-FRIENDS?

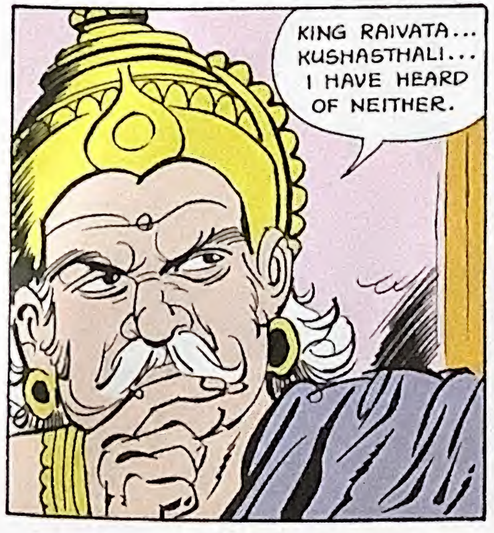
IS THIS KUSHASTHALI?
K-KUSHASTHALI?


I BEG YOUR PARDON. IS THIS DWARAKA?


YES ...NO... I... I MEAN WE ARE VERY NEAR DWARAKA.
THEN LEAD US TO THE PALACE OF THE KING.


SOON —
THERE! THAT FORTRESS IS DWARAKA.


AND A LITTLE LATER —
KING RAIVATA OF KUSHASTHALI WISHES TO SEE YOU, MAHARAJ.
LEAD HIM IN.


KING RAIVATA... KUSHASTHALI... I HAVE HEARD OF NEITHER.

HAVE YOU HEARD OF RAIVATA, SIR?
RAIVATA ? AH, RAIVATA. YES... I HAVE.

THERE WAS ONE RAIVATA...THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO...

THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

MAHARAJ, KING RAIVATA IS HERE.

UGRASENA WELCOMED THE VISITORS...

...AND HAD SPECIAL SEATS BROUGHT IN FOR THEM.

I AM RAIVATA, A GREAT-GRANDSON OF MANU. I REIGNED OVER THIS LAND CENTURIES AGO.

I BELONG TO THE FIFTH GENERATION OF MANU. MY KINGDOM WAS ANARTTA.

MY CAPITAL, KUSHASTHALI WAS SITUATED WHERE YOUR CITY NOW STANDS.

THIS IS MY DAUGHTER, REVATI. WORTHY AND VIRTUOUS, SHE IS A GEM AMONG WOMEN.

"IT WAS FOR HER SAKE THAT I LEFT MY KINGDOM AND SET OFF FOR BRAHMALOKA.

"WHEN WE REACHED THERE, WE FOUND LORD BRAHMA RAPT IN THE WORLD OF MUSIC.

WE DID NOT WANT TO DISTURB THE LORD, SO WE WAITED.

"ONLY WHEN THE MUSIC CEASED, DID I ADDRESS BRAHMA."

MY LORD, PLEASE SUGGEST A SUITABLE BRIDEGROOM FOR MY DAUGHTER.

O KING, DO YOU REALIZE HOW MUCH TIME HAS ELAPSED ON EARTH SINCE YOU LEFT IT?

TIME... OH...

...OH, YES! IT MUST BE CENTURIES! OH, HOW COULD I HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT ONE DAY IN BRAHMALOKA IS EQUAL TO MANY CENTURIES ON EARTH!

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW, LORD BRAHMA? WHO WILL MARRY MY DAUGHTER? PLEASE HELP ME.

DO NOT BE DISTURBED, KING RAIVATA.

THEN BRAHMA ASKED ME TO GO BACK TO MY OWN KINGDOM WHERE I WOULD FIND A WIELDER OF THE PLOUGH...

...WHO WOULD MARRY MY DAUGHTER.

I CERTAINLY WOULD.

BALARAMA

BUT SHE IS A BIT TOO TALL FOR ME. I'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. I'LL...

BALARAMA

EH!

WELL, BALARAMA?

ONE TOON
ONE STORY
ONE-DERFULLY LONG...
IT'S TINKLE TALL TALES!

TINKLE PRESENTS, FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, LONGER, LOONIER ADVENTURES OF YOUR FAVOURITE TINKLE TOONS. COMING YOUR WAY THIS MAY!

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